

APPLICANT FEEDBACK SUMMARY

2013 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

Legal Applicant: Notre Dame Mission Volunteers Program, Inc.

Application ID: 13ED147311

Program Name: Notre Dame Mission Volunteers Program, Inc.

For the purpose of enhancing our programs by improving the quality and quantity of applications to the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), we are providing specific feedback regarding the strengths and weaknesses of this application. These comments are not meant to represent a comprehensive assessment; rather the analysis represents those elements that had the greatest bearing on the rating of the application. Please note that this feedback consists of summary comments from more than one reviewer. For this reason, some of the comments may seem to be inconsistent or contradictory. Comments are not representative of all of the information used in the final funding decision.

Reviewers' Summary Comments:

(+) The applicant described and documented the social and economic needs of each of several sites for the proposed program. Although the focus is upon education, the applicant will meet the specialized needs of children and adults from a variety of social backgrounds.

(+) Compelling information regarding the targeted communities is linked to the activities in the proposal and the population served as evidenced by neighborhood-based identified needs.

(+) The applicant provided a description of the overall program need as a good framework for the needs that they were addressing at the various locations. This established the needs of the targeted population that the Members would address within the context of the national program being done in local settings.

(+) The applicant states the number of full-time Members they need and how the services of these Members will help prepare disadvantaged participants for employment and college.

(+) The applicant states and explains how many more people can be better served with the help of AmeriCorps members. The impact will include the number of additional Members that can be deployed and the expansion and improvement of services to both adults and children.

(+) The applicant's concept of having a national program focusing on local needs showed how all resources would be effectively leveraged to meet defined needs. The applicant developed an effective system of Member service at the 20+ locations to increase the academic, social, and integration with the local community to meet the needs of the targeted populations.

(+) The applicant linked their overall program to an evidence-based program that provided a rationale for why the overall program would have the effects developed in the narrative. The applicant provided a research base along with an evaluation of their program in 2009 that gave a logical framing of their claims about the positive effects of the program. This level of information effectively shows that their program will meet the needs of the targeted

populations.

(+) The outcomes for each of the communities and targeted populations were clearly stated. Their system of evaluation was effectively tied to the overall programs at each of the sites. This should allow the applicant to increase the knowledge in the field and aid in the development of evidence programs that could be used by other organizations.

(-) There is only a basic description provided for Members that will serve in the area of adult education and economic opportunity. It is unclear how these activities will support the outcomes identified.